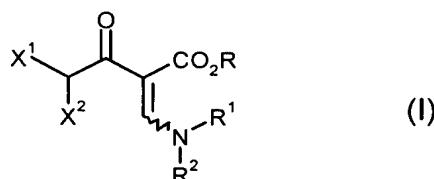


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

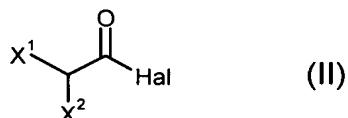
Claim 8 (previously presented): A process for preparing 2-dihaloacetyl-3-aminoacrylic esters of formula (I)



in which

R, R¹, and R² are each independently C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, comprising reacting an acid halide of formula (II)

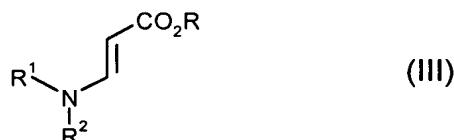


in which

Hal is fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, and

X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine,

with a dialkylaminoacrylic ester of formula (III)



in which R, R¹, and R² are each as defined for formula (I),

in a water-immiscible organic solvent in the presence of a base, wherein the base is an inorganic aqueous base, pyridine, or a pyridine derivative.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 8 wherein the base is pyridine, picoline, 2-methyl-5-ethylpyridine, 2,4,6-collidine, quinoline, or quinaldine.

Claims 10-13 (canceled)